

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER  
HONEY PRODUCTION  
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS  
U. S. FARM LABOR & WAGE RATES**

**LOUISIANA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during January totaled 1.5 million pounds, down 6 percent from both December and the previous year.

There were 2,000 head of **cattle** slaughtered during January, unchanged from both December and the previous year. Average live weight was 826 pounds, down 4 pounds from the previous month, but 70 pounds above January 1999. Total live weight at 1.61 million pounds was down 4 percent from December, but 9 percent above a year ago.

**Calves** slaughtered during January totaled 900 head, unchanged from December, but 500 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 490 pounds, up 14 pounds from December, and 27 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight at 463 thousand pounds was up 10 percent from December, but 28 percent below a year ago.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during January totaled 2,900 head, down 1,400 head from December, and 300 head below January 1999. Average live weight was 214 pounds, up 35 pounds from December, but 7 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 617 thousand pounds, 20 percent below the previous month, and 13 percent below a year ago.

The total number of **sheep** slaughtered during January was 200 head, unchanged from both December and the previous year. Live weight averaged 92 pounds, up 16 pounds from the previous month, but 3 pounds below the previous year.#

**UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.79 billion pounds in January 2000, down 1 percent from the 3.83 billion pounds produced in January 1999.

January 1999 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and five Saturdays. January 2000 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays (including one holiday).

**Comparing January 2000 with January 1999**

**Beef production** at 2.18 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, down 1 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,229 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 17.0 million pounds, 2 percent below January a year ago and equal to the previous record low for January set in 1998. Calf slaughter totaled 92.7 thousand head, down 12 percent from January 1999. The average live weight was 33 pounds above last year, at 311 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.57 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.14 million head, 5 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 19.0 million pounds, was up 7 percent from January 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 282 thousand head, 5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 3 pounds from January a year ago.#

**COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER AND RED MEAT PRODUCTION**

ITEM	LOUISIANA			UNITED STATES	
	December	January		January	
	1999	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Number, thousand head			Number, thousand head	
Cattle	2.0	2.0	2.0	2,961.3	2,936.9
Calves	0.9	1.4	0.9	105.4	92.7
Hogs	4.3	3.2	2.9	8,553.7	8,140.8
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.2	0.2	268.7	281.7
	Total live weight, thousand pounds			Total live weight, thousand pounds	
Cattle	1,683	1,482	1,612	3,612,644	3,610,156
Calves	420	642	463	29,326	28,848
Hogs	771	707	617	2,215,150	2,132,806
Sheep & Lambs	13	17	14	35,941	38,645
	Average live weight, pounds			Average live weight, pounds	
Cattle	830	756	826	1,220	1,229
Calves	476	463	490	278	311
Hogs	179	221	214	259	262
Sheep & Lambs	76	95	92	134	137
	Million pounds			Million pounds	
Red meat	1.6	1.6	1.5	3,833	3,785

## LOUISIANA HONEY PRODUCTION

Honey production from producers with five or more hives in Louisiana during 1999 totaled 5.47 million pounds, up 20 percent from 1998. The number of colonies at 48,000 was up 7,000 from 1998. Honey stocks on December 15, 1999, amounted to 821,000 pounds, down 44,000 pounds from 1998.

The average price received for honey sold during 1999 was 49 cents per pound, down 10 cents from 1998. The value of the 1999 honey crop was 2.68 million dollars, virtually unchanged from the previous year. #

## U.S. HONEY PRODUCTION

Honey production in 1999 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 205 million pounds, down 7 percent from 1998. There were 2.69 million colonies producing honey in 1999, up 2 percent from 1998. Yield per colony averaged 76.3 pounds, down 7.4 pounds from the 83.7 pounds in 1998. Colonies which produced in more than one State were counted in each State, and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not counted if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 79.4 million pounds on December 15, 1999, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 1999 crop averaged 59.9 cents per pound, down 8 percent from 65.5 cents in 1998. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. At the State level, prices reflect the portions of honey sold retail, coop and private. At the U.S. level, prices for each color are derived by weighting quantities sold for each marketing channel. Coop and private prices were lower for all color classes in 1999.

### HONEY: NUMBER OF COLONIES AND PRODUCTION 1/

STATE	NUMBER OF COLONIES		YIELD PER COLONY		PRODUCTION	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Colonies		Pounds		1,000 pounds	
Alabama	16	17	71	68	1,136	1,156
Arkansas	53	52	65	89	3,445	4,628
Georgia	75	65	56	51	4,200	3,315
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>4,551</b>	<b>5,472</b>
Mississippi	18	18	86	73	1,548	1,314
Texas	91	108	77	81	7,007	8,748
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>2,633</b>	<b>2,688</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>76.3</b>	<b>220,316</b>	<b>205,228</b>

### HONEY: STOCKS AND VALUES 1/

STATE	2/ STOCKS, DECEMBER 15		AVERAGE PRICE PER POUND		VALUE OF PRODUCTION	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Pounds		Cents		1,000 dollars	
Alabama	159	185	72	56	818	647
Arkansas	1,688	2,592	59	53	2,033	2,453
Georgia	307	497	69	64	2,898	2,122
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2,685</b>	<b>2,681</b>
Mississippi	898	591	58	54	898	710
Texas	1,612	2,799	62	64	4,344	5,599
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>80,808</b>	<b>79,361</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>147,254</b>	<b>125,422</b>

1/For producers with 5 or more colonies. 2/Does not include stocks under loan.

## PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES 2 PERCENT

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 92 based on 1990-92= 100, up 2.2 percent from the January index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and hogs more than offset the relatively lower marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton. These marketing changes accounted for most of the February index increase. Higher prices for hogs, eggs, corn, and soybeans offset price decreases for lettuce, broilers, milk, and apples.

Compared with February 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 4.2 percent lower. Price decreases from February 1999 for milk, lettuce, oranges, and cotton more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, calves, and apples. #

## PRICES PAID INDEX UP 1 POINT

The February Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 119 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 1 percent from January and 3.5 percent above February 1999. Higher prices in February for diesel fuel, nitrogen fertilizers, feed grains, and feeder pigs more than offset lower prices for feeder cattle, herbicides, feed supplements, and LP gas.

## AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

ITEM	LOUISIANA			UNITED STATES		
	ENTIRE MONTH		PRELIMINARY	ENTIRE MONTH		PRELIMINARY
	February	January	February	February	January	February
	1999	2000	2000 1/	1999	2000	2000 1/
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	4.74	4.84	5.02	4.80	4.62	4.75
Rice, per cwt	9.17	5.59	5.50	9.02	6.03	6.09
Upland Cotton, per pound	.566	.428	2/ .408	.556	.431	2/ .434
Hay, all, baled, per ton	N/A	N/A	N/A	79.90	71.80	72.60
Beef Cattle, per cwt	44.70	49.50	49.70	60.60	67.80	67.50
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	70.00	83.50	85.00	63.60	71.60	70.80
Cows, per cwt	34.90	34.90	36.00	34.70	35.90	37.00
Calves, per cwt	81.60	96.70	99.00	86.90	102.00	105.00
Broilers, live, per pound	N/A	N/A	N/A	.366	.350	.335
Eggs All, per dozen	N/A	N/A	N/A	.652	.580	.686
All Milk, per cwt 3/	19.10	4/	4/	15.50	12.00	11.80

1/Mid-month; 2/Based on sales during the first half of the month; 3/Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. 4/Monthly estimate discontinued January 2000.

N/A = Not Available

## UNITED STATES FARM LABOR & WAGE RATES

ITEMS	JAN 1999	OCT 1999	JAN 2000
-----Thousand workers-----			
<b>Hired Farm &amp; Service</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>836</b>
<b>Hired Workers</b>	705	989	666
150 Days or More	568	665	528
149 Days or Less	137	324	138
-----Per week-----			
<b>Hours Worked</b>			
Hired	38.1	42.5	38.2
-----Per hour-----			
<b>Wage Rate (All)</b>	<b>\$7.94</b>	<b>\$7.83</b>	<b>\$8.12</b>
<b>Wages by Type of Worker</b>			
Field	\$7.23	\$7.31	\$7.32
Livestock	\$7.31	\$7.43	\$7.64

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## UNITED STATES FARM LABOR

There were 836,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 9-15, 2000, down 3 percent from a year ago. There were 666,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 170,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 7.3 percent of the January hired workforce compared to 6.0 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.12 per hour during the January 2000 survey week, up 18 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.32 per hour, up 9 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned \$7.64 per hour compared with \$7.31 a year earlier.

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